AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented)   A method for resolving contention issues by a channel in a fibre optic switch environment, said contention issues occurring during channel program execution, comprising:

a channel receiving a status packet indicating that a device is no longer busy, said channel under a device-busy status;

specifying whether said channel intends to re-initiate a channel program that previously resulted in said device-busy status;

if said channel intends to re-initiate said channel program, setting a first combination of bits in said re-initiate field of said status-acceptance packet operable for indicating that said channel will re-initiate said channel program, after a first time period;

if said channel intends to re-initiate said channel program, setting a third combination of bits in said re-initiate field of said status-acceptance packet operable for indicating that said channel will re-initiate said channel program, after a second time period;

if said channel does not intend to re-initiate said channel program, setting a second combination of bits in a re-initiate field of a status-acceptance packet operable for indicating that said channel will take no further action;

transmitting said status-acceptance packet to a control unit; and

re-initiating said channel program in response to said re-initiate field being set by at least one of said first and third combination of bits.

2. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said re-initiate field is associated with a control header of said status-acceptance packet.

3. (Previously Presented)   A method for resolving contention issues by a control unit in a fibre optic switch environment, said contention issues occurring during channel program execution, comprising:

identifying at least one channel for which said control unit owes a device no-longer-busy status, said control unit in communication with said device;

sending a status packet to said at least one channel, said status packet indicating said device is no longer busy;

receiving a status-acceptance packet from said at least one channel, said status-acceptance packet including a re-initiate field that indicates to the control unit whether or not said at least one channel intends to re-initiate a channel program, said re-initiate field operable for receiving at least one of a first, second and third combination of bits;

waiting a first period of time for a command initiating a new channel program from said channel if said first combination of bits set in said re-initiate field indicates that said channel intends to re-initiate said channel program and

re-initiating said channel program in response to said re-initiate field being set by at least one of said first and third combination of bits.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein said re-initiate field is associated with a control header of said status-acceptance packet.

5. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 4, wherein said second combination of bits set in said re-initiate field indicate that said channel does not intend to re-initiate said channel program.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein said second combination of bits set in said re-initiate field causes said control unit to perform at least one of:

sending a no-longer-busy status to a second channel to which said no-longer-busy status is owed; and

sending a no-longer-busy status to all channels for which said no-longer-busy status is owed.

7. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 4, wherein said third combination of bits set in said re-initiate field causes said control unit to perform:

waiting a second period of time for a command initiating a new channel program from said channel, said second period of time exceeding said first period of time;

wherein said waiting a second period of time is operable for enabling said new channel program with said first combination of bits set in said re-initiate field to be initiated before said new channel program with said third combination of bits set in said re-initiate field.

8-13 (Canceled).